

MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Tuesday, Dec 7th, 2021
8:30 a.m.



Present: Robert Anderson; Mary Pat Baldauf; Penny Delaney Cothran; John Epting; David Foster; Robert Gudea; Jennifer Heinmiller; Gretchen Lambert; Zach Laprise; Bob Petrulis; Priscilla Preston; Clint Shealy; Peggy Smedley; Tamera Warren, Lori Ziolkowski.

Dr. Z. called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved as submitted. Dr. Z. noted that with the City's website update, links to previous meeting minutes are no longer active; Mary Pat said that she is in the process of updating the site.

Bob Petrulis reported that the Communications Committee has now met several times. They're focusing on creating a communications strategy and working to achieve them. The committee meets on non-CPAC meeting dates (2nd and 4th Tuesdays) at 8 a.m. Anyone who is interested can participate, and should contact Bob or Mary Pat for the meeting link.

He also reported that CPAC's last quarterly webinar of 2020 will be held on Thursday, December 16 at 6 p.m. The webinar will feature representatives from the faith community to discuss how they are addressing climate and environmental issues.

Next, Zach Laprise updated the group on the Comprehensive Plan update. He reported that members have discussed what the City has done to date and next steps forward, but that they're waiting for the City input on best ways to collaborate with other City departments and engage community members. Robert Anderson suggested that Mary Pat schedule a meeting with Leigh Deforth for Zach and herself. Mary Pat asked Zach to send her examples of plans they have researched and particularly like.

Penny then updated the group on the Ready for 100 resolution rewrite. After some discussion on formatting and other details, it was determined that both City staff and other appointees needed time to carefully review the draft. Once approved by the committee, it will be sent to the City's Legal Department where it will be formatted and returned to CPAC for their blessing. Dr. Z. asked members to review between now and the January meeting, and the Resolution Committee to bring forward some bullet points on the "twin agenda."

Clint Shealy then reported for the Renewable Aggregate Cohort, a smaller group that has been meeting to learn more about best ways to create renewable energy plans. They have recently put down their values on paper, and hope to craft it into an MOU to discuss with Dominion, which should be prepared soon.

In staff updates, Robert Anderson reported that the City is still running behind on leaf collection, but is working to manage through the first of the year. Clint asked any member who might hear complaints to encourage them to be patient; it is a particularly robust leaf season and there are staffing shortages in Solid Waste, as there are everywhere.

Mary Pat reported that she is working with CPAC appointees and other staff to draft an application for a C-LEAP grant, which will provide technical support to 20-30 cities working toward a 100% renewable commitment. He is also providing support for a grant application to address het mapping.

Fleet Administrator David Foster reported that he has one electric vehicle on order, a Nissan Leaf, which is on state contract. He is also tracking opportunities for heavier equipment options. Support Services Director Kelvin Keisler added that the Leaf will replace an old City mail car and will have high visibility around the City.

In new business, Bob and Priscilla Preston have been talking about the possibility of the City piloting the use of battery-operated maintenance equipment. Robert reported that the City recently tried, but the batteries overheated and the units destroyed within 45 minutes of use. Robert said an electric chainsaw had been added to Forestry and Beautification and that the lawn mower fleet may be switched over to propane. Robert Gudea noted that some states were using goats for maintenance, which Robert Anderson said could not be kept in the City Limits.

Samantha reported that recycling was still going well, and that the City was still receiving rebates. Typically, there is an increase in recycling contamination during the holidays, and they are preparing for that with resident education and outreach.

The next working meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 4 at 8:30 a.m., at which time, new officers will be elected. Members are asked to make every effort to attend so there will be a quorum present to elect a new chair, vice chair and secretary, who will start serving in February.

The meeting was adjourned around 10 a.m.